

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02491 271214Z

40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 DPW-01 SS-20 SY-04 USSS-00 IO-14

ORM-03 SR-02 DRC-01 CU-04 /116 W

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R 270953Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312

INFO USINT DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY

SUBJ: ISRAELI STUDENT ORGANIZATION CALL AT EMBASSY

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL UNION OF ISRAELI STUDENTS (NUIS)
CALLED AT EMBASSY APRIL 26 TO VOICE CONCERN OVER FATE OF ISRAELI
POWS IN SYRIA AND PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. NUIS
REPRESENTS SOME 50,000 ISRAELI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

2. REGARDING ISRAELI POW ISSUE, NUIS REPS ALLEGED THAT
ICRC HAD BEEN BARRED FROM VISITING PRISONERS HELD IN SYRIA.
THEY STATED THAT THIS INFORMATION HAD COME FROM THEIR
"CONTACTS." WE NOTED THAT THIS REPORT CONFLICTED WITH
INFORMATION WE HAD RECEIVED ON THIS SUBJECT. ICRC HAD
VISITED ISRAELI POWS TWICE THUS FAR AND WERE EXPECTED TO
VISIT THEM AGAIN WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. WE URGED THAT NUIS
REPS CONTACT MFA IN ORDER CLARIFY THIS POINT SO THAT ANXIETY ON
PART ISRAELI RELATIVES OF POWS NOT BE INCREASED. WE ALSO NOTED
THAT SECRETARY HAS HAD POW ISSUE VERY MUCH IN MIND AND HAD
BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING TOWARD THEIR RELEASE.

3. RE PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, NUIS REPS
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 02491 271214Z

RECOUNTED REPORTS OF INCIDENTS OVER PAST YEAR AGAINST

SYRIAN JEWS AND URGED THAT SECRETARY RAISE THIS ISSUE WHILE IN DAMASCUS. WE NOTED THAT USG HAD BEEN ACTIVE OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN ATTEMPT ALLEVIATE CONDITIONS SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY BUT THAT OUR EFFORTS HAD THUS FAR BEEN LARGELY UNSUCCESSFUL. NEVERTHELESS, USG IS AWARE OF SITUATION AND IS TRYING TO HELP.

4. NUIS REPS STATED THAT THEY WOULD REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY THROUGH MFA WHEN HE VISITS ISRAEL IN ORDER DISCUSS THESE TWO ISSUES WITH HIM.
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Message Attributes

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